



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,168	10/22/2003	Jeffrey J. Folkins	A3078-US-NP	6509
75931 7590 07/09/2008 BASCH & NICKERSON LLP 1777 PENFIELD ROAD PENFIELD, NY 14526				
EXAMINER				
QIN, YIXING				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2625				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/09/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 5/21/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments presented is that the Examiner's usage of the various numbers in the Asakawa reference for a possible calculation of the minimum design distance is not enough to be obvious. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. In the applicant's specification, P[0074] only gives an example that the minimum design distance is chose to be (5+5 mm) for the leading and trailing edges. This appears to simply be an arbitrary value for a given printer, so that there is some space between two areas where image is to be developed.

In the Asakawa reference, column 5, lines 1-7 discloses that step associated to their invention is triggered from the detection of a gap. Also the gap size is measured. In column 8, lines 22-29, Asakawa disclose that the gap includes also include margins for a page. Thus the gap can be interpreted as the bottom margin of a first page, the space between the pages, and the top margin of the next page. Thus, it would be obvious that there is at least a minimum design distance of the margins to be taken into account. The leading margin of a second page needs to exceed at least a distance into the bottom portion of the print head swath.

For example, if a document is to have sheets of papers set to have 0.25 inch margins, then there is at least a gap of 0.5 inches between two pages since a bottom margin of a first page and the top margin of a next page add up to 0.5. Thus, from a given gap, one of ordinary skill can figure out at least a minimum margin of at most 1/2

the gap distance, if there is no space between the two sheets of paper. And again, one of ordinary skill would realize that the gap has to be a sufficient enough size to be identified as a gap as opposed to, for example, some blank lines between lines of text on a page. Or even more simply put, a margin size in the Asakawa reference can be used as a minimum design distance, since the invention can include the margins as part of the gap distance, and the Asakawa invention needs those values to properly figure out how much the print swath overlaps the edges of two pages.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YQ

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625